

Dingell
Doyle
Gilchrest

Gutierrez	Murphy, Tim	Waters
Hunter	Oberstar	Watson
Jindal	Paul	Weller
Levin	Ruppersberger	Wilson (NM)
Mack	Rush	Wilson (OH)
McCollum (MN)	Sessions	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 1½ minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1700

Messrs. PALLONE, MELANCON, POE, REYES, DAVIS of Virginia, TIERNEY and PAYNE and Ms. BERKLEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1100, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1100, I was unable to vote due to medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1100, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3074, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 18 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to enter into the RECORD two more letters, which I have in hand now, one from The United States Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National Associations of Local Housing Finance Agencies, the Association for County Community and Economic Development, and the National Community Development Association in support of the conference report on H.R. 3074. And also, the second letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urging support of the conference report for H.R. 3074, signed by the executive director of the U.S. Chamber.

NOVEMBER 14, 2007.

Hon. JOHN W. OLVER,
Chair, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing And Urban Development and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OLVER: The undersigned organizations of local elected and appointed officials urge passage of the conference report on H.R. 3074 that provides funding of transportation and housing programs at \$105.6 billion. Housing and community development is a major challenge. Local govern-

ment officials know that decent, safe, affordable housing is at the core of family stability and strong neighborhoods. Your bill will assist us in achieving affordable housing and community development goals.

H.R. 3074 provides funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Public Housing, Section 8, Homeless, and other housing and community development programs. As you know, more than 260 mayors signed a letter calling for increased funding for the CDBG program. HOME continues to be an effective affordable housing program having assisted the development and rehabilitation of nearly 900,000 affordable homes for very low and moderate-income families. These are just two examples of effective programs. Virtually every housing and community development program in your bill can be cited as having an exemplary record.

We urge the House to pass the conference report to the bill, H.R. 3074.

Sincerely,

The United States Conference of Mayors; National Association of Counties; National Associations of Local Housing Finance Agencies; National Association for County Community and Economic Development; and National Community Development Association.

NOVEMBER 13, 2007.

To: The Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of ever size, sector, and region, strongly urges you to support the conference report for H.R. 3074, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008." This bill provides the necessary funding to ensure that the U.S. transportation system is the safest and most efficient in the world.

The business community depends on a safe and reliable transportation system to remain competitive and efficient. The nation's transportation system is the foundation of the nation's economy. If the investments necessary to maintain this foundation are not made, the U.S. economy will suffer. The inadequate surface transportation system costs the economy \$63 billion annually in lost time and fuel.

H.R. 3074 addresses the enormous demands of the nation's transportation infrastructure system by providing funding for the highway and transit programs authorized by Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which President Bush signed into law two years ago as well as funding for the Federal Aviation Administration to improve the safety, performance and capacity of the nation's aviation system.

While the Chamber strongly supports passage of H.R. 3074, it is important to note that the Chamber is disappointed that H.R. 3074 under-funds public transportation by \$81 million. These investments are vital to the safety of our system and the health of the nation's economy. It is imperative that commitments made under SAFETEA-LU be maintained as is required by law.

For these reasons, the Chamber urges you to support the conference report for H.R. 3074 and may consider using votes on, or in relation to, this issue in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the conference report on H.R. 3074 provides critical funding for construction of new roads, repairs, and overall improvements to our Nation's infra-

structure. The legislation also provides needed funding for housing vouchers and new vouchers for veterans and disabled and low-income families.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to passing a funding bill that has a positive economic impact on our Nation, none is more important than the fiscal year appropriation for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development.

America's transportation system is being stretched beyond its capacity. Both public and private usage of highways, transit, and aviation systems are increasing at rates far outpacing infrastructure investment. A decaying surface transportation system costs the U.S. economy \$78 billion annually in lost time and fuel while congestion adds significant pollution to the air, and substandard roads claim thousands of lives every year.

By investing \$40 billion in the Nation's highway system for construction of new roads, repairs and improvements and \$1 billion to address deficient bridges across America, H.R. 3074 honors the commitments to capital investment in highway and public transportation infrastructure made by Congress in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and will not increase the Federal budget deficit.

This bill also addresses many of our Nation's pressing housing needs, at a time when we are facing a housing crisis that has directly impacted millions of American homeowners and millions more as the effects have rippled through the U.S. and world economy. National estimates indicate that as many as 2.5 million mortgages will reset to higher interest rates in the near future.

The fiscal year 2008 appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development also addresses the plight of homeless veterans. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served this country. By providing \$75 million in housing vouchers to homeless veterans, we are beginning to address this problem by providing safe, affordable, permanent housing access to 7,500 of our homeless veterans.

Another housing program strongly supported by my constituents that this bill funds is the Section 8 Project Based Vouchers. If passed the conference report will allocate \$6.4 billion, \$405 million above 2007 and \$568 million above the President's request, to provide affordable housing to 1.3 million low- and very low-income families and individuals, two-thirds of whom are elderly or disabled.

When we pass this bill today and send it to the President, the House of Representatives will be addressing the important challenges of keeping our Nation's transportation system safe and strong, ensuring that every American has adequate shelter, and doing so in a way that strengthens the economy.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations for 2008.

The funding provided in the conference report helps enhance our national transportation system at a critical time. Our transportation system is extended beyond its capacity. Public